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Cold wave kills at least 10 in Nepal

A cold wave sweeping the terai plains in southern Nepal has killed at least 10 people and rendered dozens ill. Temperatures began dropping since last week and more effect has been seen in the sunny plain districts of eastern Nepal. The victims are also among the poorest, and the lack of warm clothes and proper accommodation combined to kill at least 10 people.

Loss of lives this monsoon

Baglung	29
Banke	28
Gulmi	19
Rautahat	12
Bajura	11
Bardia	10
Sindhuli	10
Darchula	9
Ramechhap	9
Sindhuli	10
Baitadi	8
Dang	8
Pyuthan	7
Salyan	7
Mahottari	7
Siraha	7
Kailali	6
Kaski	6
Makwanpur	6
Achham	6
Udayapur	5
Jajarkot	5
Kalikot	5
Arghakhachi	5
Saptari	5
Jumla	4
Surkhet	4
Jhapa	4
Chitwan	4
Morang	4
Sunsari	4
Nawalparasi	3
Rukum	3
Dhanusha	3
Khotang	2
Bhojpur	2
Panchthar	2
Sarlahi	2
Parsa	2
Palpa	2
Bara	2
Dhading	2
Rupendehi	2

Siraha district has suffered more till now this year. Four people succumbed to death in this district due to cold wave. Three died in Bara, two in Sunsari and one in Nawalparasi district. Last year, more than two dozen people died in Siraha from cold wave. The government hospital in Siraha reported a rise in pneumonia cases, especially among children.

On latest incident of January 2nd, two brothers of same family died in Bara. The deceased were 9 years old Bega Kumal and his younger brother Kalu Kumal from Basantapur-8, Bathanitol. Both breathed their last on the way to hospital.

Similarly, the number of patients suffering from pneumonia and typhoid has gone up at the Gaur Hospital, Rautahat, with the drop in mercury due to the cold wave. According to the Hospital source, 15-20 patients suffering from pneumonia come to the hospital daily. A majority of the patients are children from the poor Dalit communities like Dhagar and Chamar from rural hinterland. The hospital has publicly advised the people to wear warm clothes and keep their children warm to protect from the bitter cold.

Television reports showed homeless people huddling round fires to keep warm at night. The victims ranged from children to young men to a 97-year-old woman, reports said.

(Posted on 4th January, 2008)

Flood victims hurt in baton-charge

At least four women sustained serious injuries when police resorted to a baton charge at the premises of Saptari District Development Committee (DDC) Thursday. The injured, flood victims from Lalpatti VDC-2, had gathered in front of the DDC hall to complain to parliamentarians. Members of the Natural Means and Resources Committee in parliament were scheduled to visit the DDC today.

Janakidevi Mukhiya, Phuliyadevi Mukhiya, Pawanidevi Mukhiya and Kabira Khatun were injured in the incident. They are undergoing treatment at Sagarmatha Zonal Hospital. Hospital sources said Janakidevi's condition is critical. The victims claimed that DSP Chhabilal Joshi gave the order to lathi charge them while they were gathering peacefully at the DDC gate.

District Red Cross Saptari has not provided them any relief materials yet as its bank account was closed by the district administration office two weeks ago.

(Posted on 4th January, 2008)

Bajhang	1
Tanahun	1
Sindhupalchowk	1
Lalitpur	1
Dadeldhura	1
Kavre	1
Mustang	1
Myagdi	1

(As of 30th October, 2007)

Major Displacements

Saptari	10000 family
Siraha	6000 family
Mahottari	3700 family
Bardiya	2500 family
Dhanusha	2050 family
Parsa	2000 family
Rupendehi	2000 family
Sunsari	1000 family
Banke	750 family

Total displacement: 48000 family

Total affected population:

Around 4 lakh 72 thousand (as of 30th October, 2007)

Sources : NRCS, Media reports/MCN

Disaster Related Reports

[Situation Repot NRCS, 10th Sep](#)

[NRCS Bulletin 21st Aug, 2007](#)

[WHO SITREP \(5-19th Aug,2007\)](#)

[OCHA Situation Report,13th Aug](#)

[WHO SITREP \(4-12 Aug,2007\)](#)

[Sink or Swim \(Oxfam Int\)](#)

[DM Report \(MCN\) 2006](#)

[NRCS Bulletin 29th July, 2007](#)

[Baglung Landslides Report, 2007](#)

[Flood scenario of Saptari,2007](#)

[Report on relief, Mahottari,2007](#)

[Delhi Declaration,Nov, 2007](#)

[We Know What We Need : Nov.](#)

Snapshots



Rafters on search operation to retrieve the bodies after the collapse of Bheri Bridge .

Food shortage hits Dolakha village

There is acute shortage of foodstuff in remote Lapche village of Lamabagar-1 in northern Dolakha district as the only trail leading to the village has been blocked for the past six months.

The narrow foot trail to the village was badly damaged by flood and landslide in the rainy season. However the administration has not repaired the path even after six months.

Karma Sherpa and some other villagers from Kathmandu have been stranded at Lamabagar as they failed to reach their village despite frequent attempts. They fear their family members and relatives may have been badly affected by famine.

There are about 100 persons in Lapchi village. Potato is the only edible item that can be grown in there. Lapchi is a day's walk from Lamabagar. However, it takes about five days now to reach the village. One has to cross ten streams that don't have bridges and spend the nights in caves. "The government has been indifferent to the problem despite frequent requests," said Sherpa.

(Posted on 4th January,2008)

Home ministry requests to send programmes of earthquake safety day

Earthquake Safety Day, 2008 is being observed this year also on January 16 by organizing educational, awareness-raising and audio-visual programmes for a week.

The theme of the Earthquake Safety Day this year is 'Reliable Support in Earthquake Disaster; Secured Health and Security Responsibility'. The Ministry of Home Affairs has requested all concerned agencies to send the programmes related to the Day to the Natural Disaster Management Section at the Ministry at the centre, to the Regional Administration Offices concerned at the Regional level and to the District Administration Offices concerned at the District level, by January 9.

(Posted on 4th January,2008)

Disaster management project in the offing

A Disaster Management for Rural Development Project is going to be run in 10 communities of six VDCs of Morang district from 2008 on the initiative of the Morang district chapter of the Nepal Red Cross Society.

The project aims to integrate community development and risk minimisation of natural disasters. The project will be launched in 30 communities by 2012, according to Manoj Upadhyay, president of the NRCS, Morang.

The programme will include disaster management, drinking water and sanitation, health and education, livelihood development and institutional capacity building. The Danish government through the Danish Red cross will fund the programme.

At a coordination meeting held recently, it is said that 47 different kinds of activities can be carried out under the programme including mapping of disaster-prone areas and relief distribution. The Morang Red Cross has prepared 14 strategies to launch the programme in disaster-prone areas, to ensure community participation, and to build the capacity of the communities.

Our Words

Disaster Watch Newsletter is now going to change its pattern. Along with the end of monsoon, daily updates will not be available but new updates will be posted regularly. Disaster Watch Newsletter would be made more interactive henceforth.

We will start regular columns and invite guest, viewers to have their say on different disaster issues. Suggestions and feedbacks would be heartedly appreciated .

Climate Change Corner

[Climate Change, Bali conference and Nepal](#)

[Climate Change and Disaster risk](#)

[Climate Change & Conservation](#)

[Effects of Climate Change on the Ocean](#)

[Linking Climate Change, Forestry and Biodiversity](#)

[Climate Change Presentation from Co-Action Nepal](#)

[Information Paper on Climate Change](#)

[Global Warming and GLOF Danger to Nepal](#)

[Flood Response Study 2007](#)

Asia Watch

INDONESIA : Disaster-preparedness drive in West Sumatra

There is no mincing words: "West Sumatra is a supermarket for disasters, earthquakes and tsunamis," Gamawan Fauzi, governor of the province, said as he opened a two-day National Exhibition of Disaster Preparedness in Padang, the capital city, in December. "Society must be provided the knowledge to minimise fear," Fauzi said, "and the system of disaster response must be perfect."

There was no more convincing sign that communities in West Sumatra are beginning to take that challenge seriously than a mock disaster drill staged at the Padang event in which 13-year-old

(Posted on 4th January,2008)

Water conference ends with 15-point declaration

The first national water conference organised in Nawalparasi concluded last week with a 15-point declaration, calling on the government to review the Nepal-India water treaties.

The conference declared that the upcoming constituent assembly should ensure local people's rights in the use and management of their local resources. It also said it's the state's responsibility to minimise the flood risks associated with the dams constructed along the border.

The conference discussed in detail about various treaties between Nepal and India on use of water resources from Mechi to Mahakali and other issues related to water sector. At least 200 participants including politicians, border experts and water resource experts took part in the two-day conference organised by the Nepal Gandak Water Users' Association, Nawalparasi, and Indreni Social Development Forum, Nawalparasi.

(Posted on 4th January,2008)

More Bio-gas projects as CDM

Strong negotiations from Nepali delegates at the United Nations Framework for Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) held in Bali, Indonesia, has approved suspended bio-gas projects of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). According to Dr Govinda Raj Pokharel, executive director of Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC) and a delegate to the recent Bali Conference, the methodology for registration of bio-gas projects as CDM had raised strong objections from some delegates at the UNFCCC meeting held in Montreal, Canada two years ago.

"Due to lack of strong lobbying from our delegates at UNFCCC's meeting held at Nairobi, Kenya, this project was suspended and we were deprived of benefits from carbon trading," he added. CDM allows developed countries to meet part of their emission-reduction requirements by investing in emission reduction in developing countries, where the economic costs of doing so are lower.

However, Nepalese delegates have convinced other members of the Convention of Parties (COP) at Bali Conference and approved the bio -gas projects as CDM. Similarly, Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS) have also been approved for the CDM, he added. There are 300,000 ICS used in Nepal. Earlier, Brazilian delegates had strongly objected to the methodology, considering that bio- gas, when used as alternative for firewood was not contributing to reduction of carbon emission.

Among, 190,000 bio gas plants established inside the country only 19,636 bio gas plants of the country have been approved by the executive board of CDM. For the registered bio-gas projects, World Bank has already provided Rs 40.34 million (\$568,000) as the first carbon-trading deal under Kyoto Protocol.

(Posted on 30th December,2007)

Cold waves claim lives in Terai

Cold wave claimed three lives in Siraha district on Friday. Shivanarayan Thakur, 55, of Siraha-8, Nirasidevi Yadav, 37, of Kachnari-2 and Ram Prasad Raya, 20, of Jhokraha-5 died due to cold wave on Friday morning, said the victims' families.

Muslim schoolchildren carried stretchers of the dead and wounded, quickly triaged and treated those who had survived, extinguished a small fire and, in under-five-minutes, erected a medical tent to care for and shelter casualties.

One 13-year-old, Athika Irdiyani, told IRIN: "We have practiced for the earthquake and the tsunami repeatedly at school, with the help of Tsunami Alert Community (KOGAMI), a local non-governmental organisation (NGO), as well as LIPI [the Indonesian Institute of Science]. That's where we learned to bring the tent, the stretcher and the medical equipment."

Some 5,000 people attended the third national disaster exhibition - the first was held in Jakarta in 2005 and the second in Bali in 2006 - where they learned through discussions, disaster storytelling, earthquake simulation and a variety of skits, games and drawing competitions about the mechanics of earthquakes and tsunamis and how to prepare for and survive them.

The 2004 tsunami had not just been a wake-up call for Indonesians in general, but for organisations like LIPI as well. LIPI, which is government funded and reports to the president, had for some years produced a series of reports on disasters and translated scientific findings, but Rafliana said, "they were reaching only a limited audience."

"Before 2004, no one had ever had training regarding earthquakes and tsunamis," Rafliana told IRIN. "The community was eager for information." She said: "People were asking LIPI what is an earthquake? How does it happen? How do we prepare for it?" and added: "They simply didn't believe a tsunami was possible."

The LIPI public education coordinator guesses that over 20 percent of the people would

Life in the district has been hugely affected due to adverse weather condition since the past few days. Meanwhile, Dr Nagendra Yadav of Siraha district hospital said the number of patients suffering from pneumonia, cold, diarrhea and viral influenza is significantly increasing in the hospital now. Last year, 24 persons died of cold wave in Siraha district alone.

According to the Kawasoti police post of Nawalparasi district, an old man sheltering in a temple at Dandabazar died of cold on Friday morning.

Similarly, liberated bonded labours of Kalika-4, Juktinagar in Bardia district have been severely affected by the increasing cold. Report says that about 50 children and old aged individuals are suffering from pneumonia. They have sought for humanitarian assistance as they are unable to afford for medicines and warm clothes.

Three patient in single bed

Normal life in Saptari district has also paralysed as temperature declined for the last two weeks. The cold has mostly affected elderly people and children. Suffering from cold, diarrhoea and pneumonia, they have been admitted at Sagarmatha Zonal Hospital for treatment. Three dozen of children have been under going treatment at the same hospital, according to Emergency Ward.

In-Chare of the Ward, Lal Kishor Singh said three patients are kept in a single bed due to the lack of adequate beds. 'It is very difficult to carry out treatment due to the lack of beds', said paediatrician, Dr. Tirtha Naryan Lalkarna. Dozens of cold and diarrhoea patients visit daily even at the Primary Health Posts, District Public Health Office said.

(Posted on 30th December,2007)

ICIMOD prioritized climate change issues

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) has formulated new programmes to be launched for 2008. A statement released by the ICIMOD said it had prepared programmes on climate change, sustainable livelihood and poverty alleviation, effects of climate change in human life, measures to tackle it and water management among others.

Rs. 10.7 million dollars has increased in the expense for 2008, the release stated. Moreover, the board meeting of the Centre has also set new programmes and strategies for coming five years.

(Posted on 30th December,2007)

Previous Issues

probably not be prepared to evacuate in a serious disaster. "Our biggest challenge is how to facilitate the process to get the community to evacuate quickly and safely."

West Sumatra lies in the middle of the western coast of the island of Sumatra and has a population of just over 4.2 million, according to government statistics. The province's low-lying coastline, with mountainous regions rising further in, faces the Indian Ocean and stretches 375km from North Sumatra Province in the northwest to Bengkulu in the southeast. Padang is the capital and largest city in the province with a population of over 750,000. (IRIN)

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